

Price of Cotton

The following paper was read by County Superintendent Edgar J. Clement before the recent meeting of the County Teachers' Association at Holladay:

It may seem strange that I should attempt the discussion of a subject apparently commercial in its nature before a teachers' meeting, where the discussion are supposed to be, and quite often are of such a technical nature that they are interesting to none but teachers; and if "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" were told, they sometimes tire of the stereotyped material which goes to make up the usual program.

Looking at this subject in its restricted sense it would apply to the fluctuations in market value of the fleecy staple, upward and downward slides governed in part by the law of supply and demand, but more, it seems, by speculators on that celebrated street in the city of New York and other cities as far removed from the "cotton fields of Dixie" as possible.

About that phase of the subject I know but little. I am informed that cotton is "up" now. Last year at this time it was "down." With cotton a drug on the market we had the sad spectacle of the proud Southland whose pride is her pride, beggared, groveling in the dust, asking alms of the passer-by, offering in exchange her cotton—the "Buy-a-bale movement," if you please.

*Knowing persons whose daily, weekly and yearly occupation is the converting of empty goods boxes into shavings of uniform thickness, exterminating germs on the floor of the grocery store—with tobacco-laden expectoration, and running the European war as well as the rest of the universe, were divided in their opinions as to the cause of the depression last season. Their opinions varied with their political faith. Some said Woodrow was to blame; others, wishing to establish an alibi for Woodrow, laid it to the "war."

Like the blind men who examined the elephant, these latter-day seers may have been right as far as they went, but so far as I am able to obtain on those two interesting subjects through the more or less reliable medium of the press, both Woodrow and the war continue to flourish, yet cotton is "up."

I am interested in anything that means better conditions in our country, whether it be better schools, better houses, better roads,

better babies—better anything; therefore I am interested when I hear that cotton is a better price.

But there are prices not computed in dollars or cents, francs or marks, kopecks or pounds. Cotton is King and the price ought to be royal, to preserve the eternal fitness of things. It has been stupendous.

The Civil War was quite some struggle. Its cost ran into more dollars than an ordinary person can comprehend. Thousands and thousands of good men lost their lives. Thousands of others were maimed for life and a breach was created between two sections of a united republic that will never be completely removed.

What was the cause?

Cotton.

Oh, you say, how do you get that? I thought secession was the cause of the war. So it was, but what brought about secession? The question of negro slavery. And negro slavery was more profitable in the cotton-raising sections than elsewhere.

Poor reasoning, you say. Well, suppose there had been no cotton; would there have been any war?

Then it is that the Civil War with all its attendant and subsequent horrors was one of the prices of cotton.

But the price I am most interested in is not the number of cents per pound that cotton is selling for today. Neither is it the Civil War nor any of the complicated problems growing out of it. It is the price that every cotton-raising section of our country is paying—the price of illiteracy.

In the State of North Carolina there are 195 native white persons in every thousand who can neither read nor write; in the State of Washington, only 5 in each thousand are illiterate. In Louisiana there are 173 illiterates in every thousand native white persons; in South Dakota only 6. The nine cotton-producing States, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama and North Carolina, have an average of 130 native white illiterates, which is a higher rate of illiteracy than that of any State which does not produce cotton, excepting New Mexico, whose population is made up largely of persons of Spanish extraction.

Our own proud State of Tennessee must hang her head with shame when it is known that within her borders 142 native-born white persons out of every thousand can

neither read nor write. It might be urged that Tennessee is not a cotton-raising State as a whole. That is true, but Middle and East Tennessee point to West Tennessee and say, You are responsible for the high rate of illiteracy.

Not without cause do we call cotton King. Cotton is king, an absolute monarch—a despot.

I once saw a picture illustrative of conditions in Russia, a picture of peasants hitched to a plow as oxen, breaking the soil. Always when the power of the Czar is mentioned I think of that picture. Today there is a sadder, more pathetic picture in my mind. It is the picture of children who ought to be in school but are picking cotton.

We think of Turkey, Austria-Hungary, Greece and the Balkan States as benighted countries, but statistics show that the rate of illiteracy is not greater there than in the State of Tennessee or the cotton-raising area of our country. Yes, cotton is King.

Now, let us bring the proposition home. Right here in Benton County King Cotton issues his mandate and the schools must stop. For from four to eight weeks in the very best part of the year for school, practically every school house door in the county is closed and the children picking cotton. Nor does this begin to show the loss in attendance before the schools discontinue or after they resume. But the loss of interest must also be reckoned.

It's just the same old story as in other cotton regions and the reason is not far to seek. Cotton raising is largely child labor, or is made so, and child labor is the enemy of schools.

History teaches me that when a ruler becomes too despotic in his ruling there is apt to be a revolution among his subjects. The time is at hand for such an uprising against King Cotton in Benton County.

In his stead, I place in nomination for the royal purple the Legumes. They will fill the treasury of your soil with the fertility depleted by King Cotton.

Their millions of servants will work for you while you sleep.

They will not rob your children of their birthright.

Down with King Cotton.
Long live Legumes.

POSTOAK.

Guy Hudson was the guest of J. H. Blakely Sunday.

Miss Annie Lankford spent last week on Big Sandy River.

G. R. Lankford and family spent Sunday with Riley Hudson.

Lee Greer and family spent last Sunday with W. S. Wiseman.

Raymond Austin and Ivery Cain of Camden visited here Sunday.

Tom Deaton was the over night guest of G. R. Lankford Friday.

Allie Greer was the over night guest of Herschell Lankford Sunday.

Carlos Pafford attended prayer meeting at Pleasant Grove Sunday evening.

Quite a number attended the musical at the home of Robert Crews Saturday.

Sunday school is held at Postoak every Sunday afternoon. All are cordially invited.

Miss Myrtle Lankford and little brother, Raymond, visited Mrs. Dora Hudson Friday.

C. N. Matlock of Coxburg was here on business Tuesday. The weather is fine for harvesting this fall, and he says the pickers will soon have the peanut crop ready for storage. Mr. Matlock says the yield does not come up to expectations, but that the quality of nut is excellent.

9 Great Serials

The year 1916 will be crowded with the very best reading in

The Youth's Companion

9 Great Serials 250 Short Stories

CUT THIS OUT

and send it (for the name of this paper) with \$2.00 for THE COMPANION for 1916, and we will send

FREE All the issues of THE COMPANION for the remaining weeks of 1915.

FREE THE COMPANION HOME CALENDAR for 1916.

THEN The 52 Weekly Issues of THE COMPANION for 1916.

Rare Articles, Nature and Science, Exceptional Editorial Page, Family Page, Boys' Page, Girls' Page, Children's Page. All ages liberally provided for.

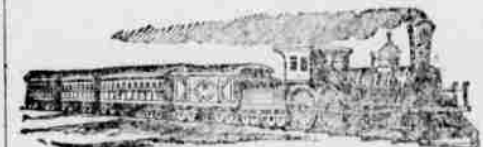
Twice as much as any magazine gives in a year. Fifty-two times a year—not twelve.

Send to-day to The Youth's Companion, Boston, Mass., for THREE CURRENT ISSUES—FREE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED AT THIS OFFICE

No. 666 will cure chills and fever. It is the most speedy remedy we know.

The Chronicle and semi-weekly Globe-Democrat, \$1.40 per year. Let us have your subscription.



RAILROAD TIME TABLE

NASHVILLE, CHATTANOOGA AND ST. LOUIS RAILWAY

J. H. JORDAN, AGENT

The following is the daily schedule of trains arriving at Camden Station:

GOING EAST.	GOING WEST.
No. 1 Flyer 5:46 a.m.	No. 2 Flyer 10:35 p.m.
No. 3 Mail 5:47 p.m.	No. 4 Mail 9:58 a.m.
No. 93 Pass. 12:43 a.m.	No. 92 Pass. 4:34 a.m.
No. 55 Pass. 10:47 a.m.	No. 6 Pass. 5:02 p.m.

Job Printing

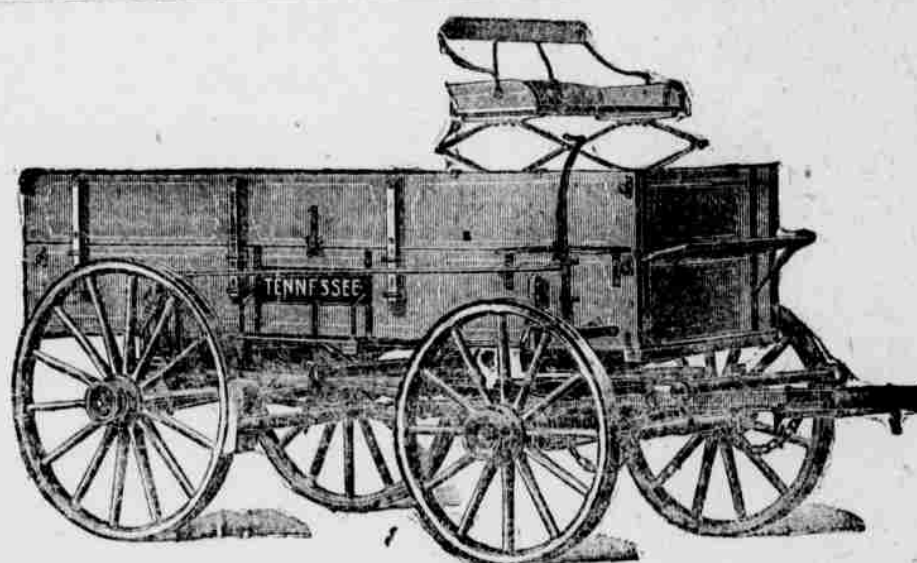
WE ARE PREPARED TO DO JOB PRINTING, SUCH AS BILL HEADS, STATEMENTS, LETTER HEADS, ENVELOPES, CARDS, DODGERS, HAND BILLS, AND ALL KINDS LEGAL BLANKS.

OUR WORK IS GOTTEN UP IN FIRST CLASS STYLE, AND THE MATERIAL AND PAPER STOCK USED ARE THE BEST TO BE HAD FROM THE MILLS.

MAIL ORDERS WILL HAVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

CALL OR WRITE FOR SAMPLES AND PRICES. ADDRESS

THE CHRONICLE
CAMDEN, TENN.



Stark Bro's Fruits

Announcing their 100th Year

How to Grow Bigger Crops of Superb Fruit—FREE

YOU need this practical, expert information. Whether you own or intend to plant a few trees or a thousand, it is information that will save you time, labor and money. Get it! Simply send us your name and address on the coupon—or on a postal, if you prefer.

We will gladly mail you a free copy of our New Catalog—an 11 x 8 in. book that is simply packed with hints that will enable you to secure bumper crops of finest fruit—and sell them at top-market prices. The whole book is filled with facts that will interest and instruct you—facts about how fruit-growers everywhere are getting prodigious crops and large cash profits from crops of young, fruitful, genuine Stark Bro's trees—facts that emphasize the truth of the axiom "Stark Trees Bear Fruit." Beautiful life-size, natural-color photos of leading fruits all through the book. Send for your copy today to

Stark Bro's Nurseries at Louisiana, Mo.

Read it and learn about the new fruit-tree triumph of Stark Bro's long Century of Success—the "Double-Life"

Grimes Golden—the tree development that resists "collar rot." Get the New Facts about "Stark Delicious," Stark Early Eberta, and all the latest peaches, Stark Bro's-grown, J. H. Hale Peaches, also Lincoln Pear, Stark Montmorency Cherry, Mammoth Gold Plum and all the other famous Stark Bro's fruits, berries and ornamentals.

Get Our New Catalog FREE 11 x 8 inches—filled from cover to cover with beautiful photographs. Mail us the coupon or a postal, bearing your name and address.

Stark Bro's Dept. A Louisiana, Mo. I expect to plant.....trees

Name.....

Send me at once..... Catalog, telling just how fruit-growers are making record-breaking profits.

R. F. D. State.....

Stark Bro's At Louisiana Mo. Since 1816

HUSBAND RESCUED DESPAIRING WIFE

After Four Years of Discouraging Conditions, Mrs. Bullock Gave Up in Despair. Husband Came to Rescue.

Catron, Ky.—In an interesting letter from this place, Mrs. Bettie Bullock writes as follows: "I suffered for four years, with womanly troubles, and during this time, I could only sit up for a little while, and could not walk anywhere at all. At times, I would have severe pains in my left side.

The doctor was called in, and his treatment relieved me for a while, but I was soon confined to my bed again. After that, nothing seemed to do me any good.

I had gotten so weak I could not stand, and I gave up in despair.

At last, my husband got me a bottle of Cardui, the woman's tonic, and I commenced taking it. From the very first dose, I could tell it was helping me. I can now walk two miles without its tiring me, and am doing all my work."

If you are all run down from womanly troubles, don't give up in despair. Try Cardui, the woman's tonic. It has helped more than a million women, in its 50 years of continuous success, and should surely help you, too. Your druggist has sold Cardui for years. He knows what it will do. Ask him. He will recommend it. Begin taking Cardui today.

Write for: Chattanooga Medicine Co., Ladies' Advisory Dept., Chattanooga, Tenn., for Special Instructions on your case and 64-page book, "Home Treatment for Women," sent in plain wrapper.